

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 13, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
Rick Griffin
James Workman
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman

PUBLIC HEARING

To accept Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds from the approved eligible costs from the Mother's Day storm declared on May 31, 2006.

Mr. Gearreald explained that the FEMA funds are to cover the expenses incurred by the Fire Department that resulted from the 2006 Mother's Day rain storm. Breakdown costs are as follows:

Total Eligible Amount:	\$18,802.40
Federal Share (75%):	\$14,101.80
Administrative Allowance:	\$ 564.08
Total Federal Share:	\$14,665.88

Mr. Gearreald noted that Public Works is still seeking reimbursement for the storm from FEMA.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to accept the \$14,665.88 funds from FEMA. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Lally announced that the various Scout clubs of Hampton will be conducting the annual Scouting for Food Drive on Saturday, November 18. They will be collecting food bags and distributing the food to Hampton food banks. He also reported on the Disney's "High School Musical" on Wednesday, November 29. The Recreation Department's bus will be transporting ticket holders to the Amesbury Playhouse from the Old Town Office parking lot at 11AM.

Mr. Workman reminded residents about the 2006 Chamber of Commerce Holiday Auction - "A Chocolate Covered Christmas". The event will start at 6PM on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at the Ashworth by the Sea.

All proceeds to benefit the Children's Christmas Parade and community events. He also announced the Seacoast Area Firefighters' Toy Bank Chili Cook Off. The cook off will be held at Lebec Rouge on Thursday, November 16 from 5:30PM to 10PM.

II. APPOINTMENTS

None

III. MINUTES – NOVEMBER 6, 2006

The minutes of November 6, 2006 stand as presented.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

After a day of trial, the case brought by the Royal Market against the Town has been settled. No damages will be paid to the parties who have sued the Town in that case, and the question about who owns the land area where the new sidewalk is located on the westerly side of Ashworth Avenue has been resolved in the Town's favor. The crosswalk over Ashworth Avenue that currently is located on the north side of Hobson Avenue will be relocated to the south side of Hobson Avenue, and a non-dedicated, combination loading/short term parking zone will be created in front of the Market on the easterly side of Ashworth Avenue. The Selectmen plan to address in the future the creation of other such zones on that side of Ashworth Avenue.

In the face of our threatened eviction for non-payment of land rent, the lease holders of the Town owned parcel at 9 J Street have this week paid over \$3,100.00 in outstanding back land rent and interest, and in addition have paid approximately \$6,000 in back property taxes and interest that had gone to lien.

At the end of this week, the School District's contractor is scheduled to begin the final reconstruction of the Winnacunnet Road/Park Avenue intersection in accordance with our Public Works Department's recommendations.

Following receipt of 20 additional resumes, the Selectmen have invited 6 more candidates to be interviewed for the Town Manager position. Those interviews will be held in the near future.

The Budget Committee continues its work next week with review of the proposed budget for Police and Animal Control on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m.

In response to the Board of Selectmen's request for our Departments Heads' recommendations on special warrant articles, the Department Heads unanimously recommend that the Selectmen sponsor 3 money articles only this year: a) for the operating budget as proposed to the Budget Committee; b) for the cost of phase I of the Public Works Department's drainage improvement plan; and c) for the cost of paving the Island Path parking lot, which can pay for itself over time with increased parking revenues. Articles for the Fire Station are not recommended this year to enable the completion in 2007 of a comprehensive Government Buildings Master

Plan. These Department Head recommendations represent a major effort on our part to meet the voters halfway on holding down tax rate growth.

The Local Government Center will be conducting its 2006 Annual Conference from Wednesday, November 15 to Friday, November 17, 2006. Mr. Gearreald plans to attend various events on the first two days, as will some other members of our staff.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

None

2. 2007 WARRANT

As previously mentioned by the Interim Town Manager, only three Selectmen sponsored warrant articles (i.e. the operating budget, drainage project, parking lot paving) have been recommended by the department heads.

Mr. Gearreald presented the 2007 draft Warrant. The main three articles are as follows: Article 7 deals with the first phase of the drainage improvement plan, Article 8 addresses the operating budget, and Article 9 attends to the repaving of Island Path parking lot.

Chairman Bridle-Russell mentioned that there was discussion at the Budget Committee meeting last Thursday, suggesting that the Island Path paving should be placed in the operating budget.

For the Board's consideration, Mr. Gearreald presented an Article that combined all of the social service funding requests as well as presented them as separate Articles for each individual organization.

Mr. Workman feels that the social service requests should be presented separately as he is concerned that many voters may turn down a large dollar figure Article. He also noted that if the Article was not supported then none of the agencies would receive funding from Hampton.

Mr. Lally believes that all of the social service Articles should be in the operating budget. He mentioned that these agencies provide many invaluable services that benefit Hampton residents and should receive funding.

Mr. Griffin is also in agreement that the social service Articles be placed in the operating budget.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to request the Budget Committee to include the social services funding requests in the operating budget. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: 3 FOR
Abstained: Workman

It was recommended that a letter be written to all of the social services notifying them of the Town's fiscal difficulties. The letter will also include the options that agencies have such as submitting a petitioned warrant article or promoting the operating budget. Chairman Bridle-Russell is willing to sign the letter.

Since the Rockingham Community Action Program was the only social service Article that did not pass at last year's vote, a petitioned warrant article will be required. In addition, any organizations that did not submit a petitioned warrant article last year may submit one to be included on this year's ballot.

It was suggested to consult with the Public Works Director on whether or not the anticipated \$70,000 in expenses for repaving the Island Path parking lot is included in the operating budget.

Mr. Griffin questioned why the Town usually borrows money for a 10 year period for large projects such as the police station rather than a longer period of time. He is concerned that the financial burden is placed on a short term basis rather than long term. Chairman Bridle-Russell pointed out that the payments would be less with a long term loan however; the Town would spend more money over a longer period of time.

The Finance Director will be asked to speak to the Board on the pros and cons of long term versus short term financing agreements on December 4. He will be asked to do so when presenting the October financials.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Workman asked for a status report on the utility poles being moved down at the beach. The Beach Infrastructure Project Engineer has informed the utility companies (Verizon & Unitil) that the contractor has completed the job and is no longer available to do the paving and the expense will be theirs to incur. Mr. Gearreald is hopeful that the poles will be moved soon.

The Police Chief will be at the next Selectmen's meeting and will be available to discuss Security System options.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of \$1,250 in program funds from the Seabrook Sam's Club – "Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grant"

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept the \$1,250 from the Seabrook Sam's Club – *Safe Neighborhood Heroes Grants* in program funds for the Hampton Fire Department. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. Scheduling Grievance Hearing

A grievance has been submitted by a Recreation & Parks Department employee. The Board was in agreement to hold a nonpublic session at the conclusion of the next Board of Selectmen's meeting (November 20).

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. 2006 Equalization Municipal Assessment Date Sheets as required by DRA

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to sign the 2006 Equalization Municipal Assessment Date Sheets as required by DRA. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Gearreald mentioned that there is a need to have a non-meeting at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Griffin voiced his opinion on the proposed security system. He is not in favor of installing one of any sort. He would like to see staff contact the police in the event of a discussion accelerating to an agitated state and/or dangerous situation. He also suggested that perhaps a police officer could be on duty from 4PM to 5PM.

Mr. Lally has mixed feelings on the system and believes there are some tactics that could be put in place to ensure the safety of town hall staff. He would also like the system not to be public knowledge.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to have a non-meeting at the conclusion of tonight's meeting sign the 2006. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman